

Remarks

Claims 36 and 40 were rejected under 112 as having an improper dependency. Applicants traverse each of these rejections. Applicants have reinstated claims 35 and 39 and submit that all of the claims have the proper dependency. Withdrawal of the 112 rejections is appropriate.

Claims 1, 32-34, 36-38, 40 and 42-49 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Keown et al, WO 95/11034. Claims 1, 32-34, 36-38, 40 and 42-49 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Nichols et al, WO97/37689. Applicants traverse each of these rejections.

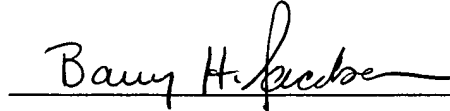
Applicants have amended claim 1 and submit that neither Keown nor Nichols disclose or teach the claimed embodiments of Applicants' invention. Applicants have added claims 50-53 to further define various embodiments of the Applicants' invention. Applicants cancelled claims 34, 38, and 43, without prejudice. Applicants amended claim 41 to be consistent with amended claim 1 and amended claims 42, 44 and 45 solely for the purpose of including the proper dependencies. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by these amendments. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that withdrawal of the rejections is appropriate and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants submit that they will submit a terminal disclaimer upon notification of allowance to overcome the obviousness type double patenting rejection over US 6,359,011.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning the above, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Barry H. Jacobsen", is written over a horizontal line.

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